Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two foreigners posing as Kenyan citizen have absconded after taking Indian Currency against the fake Dollars from the Alwar branch of Bank of Baroda;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN ITHE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Bank of Baroda has reported posing as Kenyan citizens visited its Alwar branch on 4th an 7th October, 1991 and exchanged currency notes amounting to US $ 1700, equivalent to Rs. 43,350/-. On presentation of the currency notes by Alwar branch for re-imbursement to the bank's Overseas branch had lodged had FIR with the local Police on 23rd October, 1991.

[English]

Filling up of Vacant Posts in Nationalised Banks

3634. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to State number of posts in the nationalised banks which have been filled up by different categories during 1990 and 1991 till 31 October, 1991 and the posts still lying vacant, state-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closed and Sick Textile Mills in Bombay

3635. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh regarding the problems of closed and sick textile mills in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to find a solution to their problems and take over the sick mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has set up a Nodal Agency to evolve and implement packages for the revival of closed/sick textile mills found to be viable. Government has also set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction(BIFR) to determine and enforce the preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures for the revival of sick industrial units. Taking over by Government of nationalisation of sick units does not provide a solution to sick industries.

Trade Protocol with USSR

3636. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade protocol for 1992 between India and the Soviet Union has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the targets and achievements of the trade protocol for 1991 as on November 10, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The annual Indo-Soviet Trade Protocols are usually

finalised towards the end of preceding calendar year. The restructuring of the economy and the foreign trade responsibilities between the Union and the Republics of the Soviet Union has made the internal situation in the USSR fluid and uncertain. Efforts are, however, being made to finalise the 1992 trade protocol as soon as possible.

(c) The latest statistics indicating Indo-Soviet trade in 1991 as against the trade plan provisions are summarised below:-

(Rs. in Million)

	Trade Plan Provisions	*Actuals (Jan-September '91*)*
Exports	50810	28494
Imports	43300	18454

The DGCI&S provisional data is available only for the period Jan-September'91. As such the trade figures as on 10th November, 1991 are not yet available

European Community Investments

3637. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Economic Community countries have signed an agreement for paving way towards promoting European Community investments in the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Export Import Bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and Industrial Development Bank of India each have signed framework agreements with the European Community under the European Community International Investment partners Financial Institutions Scheme. Under these agreements European Community Investment in Joint Ventures in India will be channelised through these 3 financial institutions. These investments will be mainly in the small scale and medium scale sector.

Seniority to Ex-service Officers In Nationalised Banks

3638. SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received numerous representations regarding grant of seniority to Ex-Service Officers working in nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend seniority benefits to such Ex-Service Officers;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Banking Division in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance had advised all the Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions. under its